

SR-7 Extension Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2020 (1:00pm to 2:00pm)

Online using Microsoft Teams - Call in number + (b) (6) Conference ID (b) (6)

Participants:

John Wrublik - USFWS

Brooke Wolfe - Stantec

Wayne Flowers – Lewis, Longman, and Walker

Ross Shillingford - Stantec

Hui Shi - FDOT D4 Drainage

Kacy Sable - EPA

Margaret Rushmore - FDOT D4 Construction

Randy Turner - ACOE

James Poole - FDOT D4 Drainage

Scott Peterson - FDOT D4 Design

Nick Gadbois – ESA Scheda

Michael McDaniel - FDOT OEM

Alex Marks - FDOT D4 PLEMO

Jesse Markle - SFWMD

Eduardo Lopez - Stantec

Kor – K-H Group

Jennifer Shull - NMFS

Fred Aschauer – Lewis, Longman, and Walker

Shandra David - FDOT D4 PLEMO

Ann Broadwell - FDOT D4 PLEMO

Fernando Ascanio - FDOT D4 PLEMO

Andy Kizlauskas - ACOE

Andrew Calhoun – E Sciences

Megan Bock - FDOT D4 PLEMO

Meeting Items:

Personal Introductions- from 1pm to 1:15pm

SR-7 Project Introduction Presented by Ann Broadwell from 1:15pm to 1:45pm:

Introduction

Ann stated that the goal of this meeting was to discuss project changes, keep ETAT members in the know, and gather input from members. The original 2005 ETDM summary can be found under ETDM number 8127 for those not involved in the project previously or want to review.

Project Location

Ann shared a project location map depicting the project in Palm Beach County, FL from Okeechobee Blvd to Northlake Blvd. The project has been separated into the following segments: the Acreage Reliver Road (Okeechobee Blvd to 60th St), SR 7 Extension from 60th St to Northlake Blvd.

Project Description

The SR 7 Extension project has two segments. The first segment is from Okeechobee Blvd to 60th St and consists of adding two lanes to the existing two-lane road for approximately 4.4 miles long. The second segment is from 60th St to Northlake Blvd. This segment consists of a new, four-lane road from 60th St to approximately one mile south of Northlake Blvd and includes a bridge over the M-Canal and a bridge over the Ibis Spillway. This new road is approximately 3.11 miles long. The last mile of the second segment consists of adding two lanes to the existing two-lane road. The second segment is approximately 4.11 miles long.

There is currently 200ft of FDOT ROW (referred to as the Rangeline Corridor) adjacent to Grassy Waters Preserve and the Ibis Community (city of West Palm Beach). A fence exists which gives the appearance that the FDOT ROW is part of Grassy Waters Preserve, but it is not.

Project History

A project history was described, as well as a review of previous and current PD&E typical sections (see attached presentation). During review of the typical sections, minimization and avoidance efforts were highlighted, such as those made to reduce wetland impacts and provide a buffer to grassy waters preserve. One of the highlighted features was the newly designed drainage system north of the M-Canal, consisting of a dry detention area, conveyance channel, and a positive outfall north of Northlake Blvd. Please see the attached PDF of the presentation for more details.

Design Modifications

Design Modifications from the 2016 permit to 2020 permit for each of the project segments were discussed. A summary can be found below:

- Acreage Reliver Road (2 to 4 lanes) - Floodplain zone changed from Zone B to AE in 2017, a request was made to have roadway ROW removed from flood zone.
- SR 7 Extension (new road construction from 60th St to South of M-Canal) – the median width decreased from 22ft to 15.5ft, two 6ft sidewalks and two 6ft bike lanes were reduced to one 12ft shared use path on the south side of road, drainage changed from an open ditch to a piped system connected to the Acreage Reliver Road system, water is then discharged into joint use pond (reduced wetland impacts by 5 acres), updated floodplain maps (encroachment), wetland impacts decreased from 20.74 to 15.67 acres.
- SR 7 Extension (new road north of M-Canal to Northlake Blvd)- median width reduced from 22ft to 15.5ft, sidewalk and bike lane reduced (as described in previous segment), retaining wall limits extended for conveyance channel, drainage discharge location moved from Ibis Lakes to north of North Lake Blvd (eliminated need for local water control district permit), added conveyance channel with sheet pile (reduced wetland impacts), updated floodplain maps (minor encroachment), wetland impacts increased from 39.47 to 41.37 acres due to the addition of the conveyance channel, bridge span decreased from 3-span to 1-span with no piles, temporary bridge for construction purposes with 0.21 acres of wetland impacts which will be restored.

Wetland Impacts

Wetland impacts have been decreased over time throughout the project history. The 1998 PD&E estimated 400 acres of wetland impacts. Wetland impacts are currently estimated at 57 acres with the new typical section. The biggest savings in wetland impacts was on the south side of the M-Canal where higher quality wetlands are located. Wetlands north of the M-Canal are of lower quality and have a higher percentage of exotic, invasive species.

Mitigation credits will be deducted from the Pine Glades Natural Area, managed by Palm Beach County. 219 acres of the Rangeline Corridor will be transferred to Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management (PBCERM) to maintain the area which is suitable for snail kite foraging, nesting, roosting, and perching. A \$1.5 million endowment will be given to PBCERM to maintain the property, as part of the Snail Kite Habitat Mitigation Plan produced from the USFWS Biological Opinion. Credits will also be deducted from the DuPuis Ledger.

Questions:

Kacy Stable (EPA) asked about the ETDM database to look up past correspondence – she will look into access and then follow up with Ann with additional questions later. Ann offered to send Kacy a copy of the ETDM report if Kacy could not access the ETDM. Kacy requested a copy of the PowerPoint. Ann

announced that a PDF of the PowerPoint will be attached with the meeting minutes sent out after the meeting, next week.

Randy Turner (ACOE) mentioned that the public notice will be published with 21-30 days' notice after the ACOE permit application has been submitted. Randy requested that the ETAT members identify any areas they want more information on before the public notice.

Andy Kizlauskas (ACOE) agreed with Randy and asked John Wrublik (USFWS) if he anticipated that the Biological Opinion (B.O.) would need to be amended. John Wrublik believes it will need to be amended because the project description has changed. Ann said that PLEMO will meet with John Wrublik to look at how much the project description has changed and see if it constitutes re-initiation based on the stipulations in the B.O.

Ann mentioned that supplemental reports are being produced by the FDOT based on topics anticipated to be covered in the administration hearing. These include hydrological and groundwater reports as supplemental to the drainage report, which will help demonstrate how FDOT has met permit requirements.

Ann pointed out the spillway bridge location on google earth, as per Jennifer Schull's (NMFS) question earlier in the presentation.

Jennifer Schull asked if Ann feels like the new design addressed the public's concerns with the interactions with Grassy Water Preserve. Ann responded that the stormwater system is better, because one of the concerns was discharging into Ibis which then flows into the Grassy Waters Preserve. Kor seconded this, he believes they will be able to demonstrate to the public that this new design is better than 2016 design.

After no additional questions, Ann thanked everyone for joining, asked if additional questions come up to e-mail her.

The meeting ended at 2:00pm.